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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Lost in the Locker"--information from the Bureau of Home
Economics and Human Nutrition, U.S.Department of Agriculture

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When you look for food in your freezer locker...do you sometimes wish for a divining rod?

One of these days...the manufacturers will likely work out systems to help you keep up with the contents of your freezer locker. But until they do...it's pretty much up to you to work out ingenious ways to avoid chaos and confusion.

Here are some suggestions for charting the course and locating foods in the locker. These suggestions come from home economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

First...use clear, durable labels when you package the food. Mark the labels with the name of the product and the date it was packed. Then if you have time and space on the label...add other information.

For example, some homemakers put the number of servings the package contains on the label. They also note the amount and kind of sweetening they've put in with the fruit. That will save sugar when the fruit is served.

The label might also show the variety of a fruit or vegetable. Since you can't see the contents of a package of frozen food until the package is opened...it's a good idea to mark "special" when the contents deserve it. Then you can open that package for a holiday dinner or birthday party and be sure you're serving something special.

In the same manner, you may wish to mark some packages, "experimental" for the family to try out.

Many homemakers have worked out their own systems for locating foods quickly. One way is to use different colored strings, papers or labels.

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For example, you might tie up the beef steaks with red string...the lamb chops with green string...and use plain white string to tie up packages of poultry.

Another way is to arrange plywood partitions to section off spaces for different kinds of food.

The homemaker who takes time to save searching will draw a map of her freezer locker food arrangement. She will indicate the locations of the various foods... the peas, the asparagus, the peaches, the strawberries. She will keep the map in a handy place where it's a ready reference. And when she goes to take food out of the locker she can put her hands on the package she's looking for.

Another time-saving aid is an up-to-date inventory. Keep it in a convenient place. List the foods as they go into the box. Then check'em off as they come out. With an inventory...you won't waste time looking for a package you took out of the box weeks ago.

With an inventory...a map...colored strings...durable labels...food lost in the locker will not be your worry.

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